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INFORMATION ON THE STATE EXAMINATION OF THE KARL MARX SCHOOL
OF ADVANCED EDUCATION IN THE GDR

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[The following information is extracted from an article by Heinz Kurze, director of the Instruction Department of the Karl Marx School of Advanced Education, which is sponsored by the Central Committee of the SED (Socialist Unity Party).]

The resolution of the Central Committee on the state-examination regulation of the Karl Marx School of Advanced Education is published in Documents of the Socialist Unity Party, Volume IV, and is an expression of the constant attention which the Central Committee devotes to the qualification of party members, particularly of leading functionaries.

The regulation on state examinations provides that special students who are not regular, matriculated students or correspondence-course students at the Karl Marx School are also to be given the opportunity to take the state examination. The requirements which must be met by the students or correspondence-course students enrolled in the 3-year course at the Karl Marx School also apply to those candidates who are not regular students; that is, the latter must study the same literature and pass the same examinations assigned to the former.

To pass the state examination at the Karl Marx School, the applicant must have mastery of the doctrines of Marx and Lenin, as well as a considerable amount of general knowledge. In addition, an applicant must prove that he has learned how to work scientifically and that he can combine theory with practice.

Certain prerequisites are necessary for an applicant to be able to take up studies for the state examination. Thus, the regulation on state examinations provides that an applicant must first pass an entrance examination on the history of the CPSU (Communist Party of the Soviet Union), on dialectical and historical materialism, and on the history of Germany and the German workers movement. Those persons who received a certificate of completion of the one-year course from the Karl Marx School in 1952 or later, from a consolidated school in 1953 or later, and who received grades 1 (very good) or 2 (good) in all subjects, are not required to take an entrance examination.

Although the chief subjects of the state examination deal with the history of the CPSU, dialectical and historical materialism, economics, German history, and the history of the German workers movement, the applicant must also be familiar with such subjects as general history, economic and political geography (even of capitalist countries), and German literature. Furthermore, it is essential that the applicant know the Russian language.

The best way to prepare for the state examination is to participate in the correspondence course now beginning at the Karl Marx School. Although this is a 5-year course, all students have the opportunity to complete their studies sooner by taking certain examinations ahead of schedule.

All application [for the state examination] submitted before the end of April 1954 are under consideration at present. Applications submitted after this time will be considered for the examinations scheduled for September 1954.

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